



Environmental Significance Overlay

What is the Little Stringybark Creek Environmental Significance Overlay?

- Planning Control that requires a planning permit for any increase in impervious surfaces $> 10\text{m}^2$
- Sets minimum standard for stormwater treatment & retention - higher than current BPEM to support stream restoration
- Developed by Melbourne Water and Yarra Ranges Council with support from The University of Melbourne -introduced in September 2013

Context

- Little Stringybark Creek restoration program – started in 2009
- Stormwater inputs severely degrade waterway health
- Hypothesis “could disconnect enough to result in a tangible improvement in the Creek”
- Aim to return a natural water balance (in particular natural flow frequency and baseflow contribution) to restore ecological health

Restoration Program – The Little Stringybark Creek catchment

- 420 hectare catchment in Mount Evelyn – headwater stream
- About 13% total imperviousness and 9% directly connected imperviousness – project start 2009
- Covers 765 properties, 18 kilometres of roads
- Steep terrain, clay soils, high rainfall

Restoration program – works

- Works on 243 private properties
 - intensive engagement with the community, financial incentive
 - ~23 ML of alternative water supply created

